August 14, 2015

To: Those Involved in Cotton Production

Cotton Production

The crop has progressed more rapidly than I expected in my last letter and has caught up substantially. We experienced some more boll shed but as a whole I think we have a much better crop than last year at this time and hopefully will be enough to pay some of these insecticide bills and have some left over. I am not going into figuring NAWF data to determine if you are ready terminate insecticide applications because most of you know by now how to figure that and if you don’t just give me a call. The very earliest fields will be safe from plant bugs by the end of this week and most of the rest will be safe after next week. Terminate insecticide applications for plant bugs at 250 heat units past NAWF 5. Terminate for bollworms and budworms at 350, stink bugs at 450 and fall armyworms at 500. Temperatures of 90 highs and 68 lows will give you 19 heat units per day for an example. So if you are done with plant bugs it will be another 5 or 6 days before you are completely safe from bollworms etc.

Plant Bugs

Plant bugs have been our most troublesome pest again this year but we have controlled them pretty well other than a few problem fields. The last couple of weeks we have used the Bifenthrin plus Bidrin or Acephate with very good results. Some have used Transform with good results. Just remember if you are close to treatment level or above, treat to clean up plant bugs at time of termination.

Bollworms/Budworms

We had a spike in our moth trap catches this past week but nothing extra ordinary. I did kick up several moths in the fields this week so do not fail to watch for escapes of small worms in the top of the plant. When cotton is blooming out the top as we like to say, several eggs can be laid in the blooms which is the weakest point of the Bt cotton. Worms can survive and you may need to treat a scattered field here and there. It seems like every year we have a few fields that need to be treated for bollworms but I don’t expect a big blowout of worms.

Spider Mites

Spider mites have begun to show up in fields that have never been treated for them and some fields that have been treated are slowing increasing in numbers again. If you have been treating plant bugs with Bifenthrin in the mix it should keep the numbers of spider mites low or completely control them.
Fall Armyworm

I have only seen scattered fall armyworms but you never know when they will show up. They are more difficult to find as they tend to feed on the bottom of large bolls in the bottom of the canopy.

Target Spot

The disease target spot is beginning to show up in several fields of cotton, especially in Stoneville 4946. This disease normally does not cause yield loss in our area. Other states who have experienced it early in the season have reported some yield increases from applying fungicides when this disease is present at first flower. I cannot tell you if we will lose any yield at all but I know it has come in too late for us to benefit from fungicides according to Dr. Travis Faske, Extension Pathologist. It will be worse in the bottom of the plant and in lush tall fields. Small bull’s eye appearing circles will develop and will get larger with time and eventually lower leaves will defoliate. Also spots will become present on the bolls. Again hopefully it will just provide some welcome bottom defoliation and not cause any yield loss.

Sugar Cane Aphid

I know this is a cotton letter but we are finding the white sugar cane aphid around the borders of several fields of grain sorghum. Scout the fields to be sure you have them. If enough are present you may want to consider border treating with either Transform or Sivanto. Use Transform at 1 to 1.5 ounces per acre and Sivanto at 4 to 7 ounces per acre. This does not guarantee you won’t have to treat the field but it might.

For more information, visit our web site at www.uaex.edu/clay or call 857-6875. Find us on facebook.com/uaex.claycorning

Sincerely,

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